

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-06

AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 L-02 H-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02

OES-03 /092 W

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R 101636Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5008

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, XF, XG

SUBJECT: WESTERN EUROPEAN REACTIONS TO UNESCO GENERAL
CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS ON ARAB-ISRAELI
QUESTIONS.

1. SOUNDINGS OF THE WESTERN DELEGATIONS CONCERNED
HAVE CONFIRMED STRONGLY PRESS INDICATIONS OF ANGRY
PUBLIC OPINION IN REACTION TO ARAB-INITIATED RESOLU-
TIONS VOTED BY MEMBER STATES AT UNESCO'S RECENTLY
ENDED 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE. INTERESTINGLY, IT SEEMS
THAT STRONGEST EXCEPTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ISRAELI
FAILURE TO GAIN ENTRY INTO UNESCO'S EUROPEAN REGIONAL
ACTIVITY GROUP -- NOT REPEAT NOT "EXCLUSION" WITH
CONNOTATION THAT GOI WAS THROWN OUT -- RATHER THAN RE-
SOLUTION SANCTIONING GOI FOR JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS BY
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CUTTING OFF PARTICIPATION PROGRAM FUNDS. (AS DISTINCT

FROM REGULAR BUDGET AND PROGRAM, THERE IS ALSO A SPECIAL "PARTICIPATION PROGRAM" UNDER WHICH MEMBER STATES CAN APPLY FOR SPECIAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE. GOI SANCTION LIMITED TO INELIGIBILITY FOR THIS PROGRAM UNDER WHICH GOI RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY \$24,000 FOR 1973-74 BIENNIAL.)

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SWISS PARLIAMENT TOOK FINAL ACTION DECEMBER 6 TO REDUCE SWISS CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO BY 10 PERCENT BECAUSE OF ABOVE GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS. INDEED, SWISS PERMREP TO UNESCO (HUMMEL) WAS RECALLED TO BERN, ACCORDING TO FRENCH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, AND WAS HARD PRESSED TO JUSTIFY SWISS LOW PROFILE IN GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSIDERATION OF EUROPEAN REGIONAL AND JERUSALEM EXCAVATION ISSUES. MADAME HIRSCH, A MEMBER OF THE SWISS DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, REPORTEDLY SCORED OFFICIAL SWISS STANCE IN FRONT OF THE PRESS.

3. SIMILARLY, DUTCH DELOFF ADVISED THAT THERE HAS BEEN VERY STRONG REACTION IN THE NETHERLANDS, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS NOT AS YET BEEN ANY ACTION INITIATED ON THE PARLIAMENTARY LEVEL. APPARENTLY, QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN POSED IN PARLIAMENT, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SEVERAL RESIGNATIONS FROM THE DUTCH NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO AND DUTCH ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE PROPOSED DUTCH WITHDRAWAL FROM COOPERATION WITH UNESCO.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THE FRENCH SENATE MOVED NOVEMBER 28 TO REDUCE PAYMENT OF GOF ASSESSMENT BY 10 PERCENT. HOWEVER, FRENCH DEPUTY PERMREP ADVISED DELOFF THAT THE CHAMBRE DES DEPUTES WAS NOT LIKELY TO GIVE THE NECESSARY FINAL APPROVAL TO THIS SENATORIAL INITIATIVE. NEVERTHELESS, CONTINUED PUBLIC CRITICISM, ALREADY HIGHLIGHTED BY INDIGNANT DENUNCIATIONS OF UNESCO BY PROMINENT FIGURES, E.G. SARTRE, IS FORESEEN.

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R 101636Z DEC 74

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5. IN THE FRG, ACCORDING THEIR PERMREP, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN STRONG PUBLIC REACTION, ALTHOUGH FOR REASONS UNKNOWN IT HAS GONE LARGELY UNREPORTED IN THE FRENCH OR AMERICAN MEDIA. GERMAN PARTICIPANTS REFUSED TO ATTEND TWO UNESCO MEETINGS LAST WEEK ON MATHEMATICS AND EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS. MOREOVER, THE WEST GERMAN TELEVISION PROJECT, UNDER WHICH UNESCO ACTIVITIES RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY, HAS BEEN UNILATERALLY ENDED. SOME GERMAN INTELLECTUALS REPORTEDLY HAVE ALSO ANNOUNCED THEIR REFUSAL TO CONTINUE COLLABORATION WITH UNESCO ACTIVITIES. PERMREP AWARE OF AT LEAST ONE SUCH CASE CONCERNING PROF. RENE KONIG, UNIV. OF COLOGNE, WHO SPONSORED UNESCO REQUEST TO VOLKSWAGENWERK FOUNDATION TO ORGANIZE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SITUATION OF WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES AND WHICH FOUNDATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT WITH GRANT OF DM 45,000. KONIG, WHO ALSO ACTED AS SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE SYMPOSIUM, HAS RECENTLY INFORMED UNESCO SECRETARIAT THAT HE IS RESIGNING IMMEDIATELY FROM ALL UNESCO BODIES IN FRG SPECIFICALLY IN REACTION TO THE VOTES OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE ON ISRAEL.

6. IN THE UK, THE BRITISH PERMREP ADVISES THAT QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED IN PARLIAMENT AND THAT MORE CONCRETE ACTION MIGHT POSSIBLY BE TAKEN WHEN COMMONS CONSIDERS A PARTIAL UNESCO BUDGETARY APPROPRIATION

LATER THIS MONTH. PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE
UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY
MANY LEADING BRITISH INTELLECTUALS, INCLUDING JULIAN
HUXLEY, FIRST DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO, WHO MADE
KNOWN THEIR INTENTION OF DECLINING, UNTIL THESE RESOLU-
TIONS HAVE BEEN REVERSED, ANY INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE
IN UNESCO'S PROGRAMS. (SEE LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE
TIMES, DEC. 5, 1974). FURTHER, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT
SOME MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION MAY RESIGN.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS29601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740358-0637
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741247/aaaabnyq.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTERN EUROPEAN REACTIONS TO UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS ON ARAB-ISRAELI
TAGS: PORG, XF, XG, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005